

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) An electric discharge lamp comprising:
- a light-transmissive ceramic discharge vessel (1);
 - a first and a second current conductor (2,3) entering the discharge vessel (1) and each supporting an electrode (4,5) in the discharge vessel (1);
 - an ionizable filling comprising a rare gas and a metal halide in the discharge vessel (1);

at least the first current conductor (2) within the discharge vessel (1) being halide-resistant, characterized in that the first current conductor (2) at least substantially comprises a material with an at least substantially isotropic coefficient of thermal expansion.

2. (original) An electric discharge lamp according to claim 1, wherein said material is chosen from the group of $Y_pSi_3X_q$, wherein Y is chosen from Mo, W and Ta and X is B, Al, N or C with $4 \leq p \leq 5$ and $0 < q \leq 1$.

3. (original) An electric discharge lamp according to claim 2, wherein said material is of the composition $\text{Mo}_6(\text{Si}_x, \text{Mo}_{1-x})_4(\text{C}_y, \text{Si}_{1-y})_6$ with $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.55$ and $0.15 \leq y \leq 0.40$.

4. (currently amended) An electric discharge lamp according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein also the second current conductor (3) at least substantially comprises a material with an at least substantially isotropic coefficient of thermal expansion.

5. (original) An electric discharge lamp according to claim 4, wherein said material is of the composition $\text{Mo}_6(\text{Si}_x, \text{Mo}_{1-x})_4(\text{C}_y, \text{Si}_{1-y})_6$ with $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.55$ and $0.15 \leq y \leq 0.40$.

6. (currently amended) An electric discharge lamp according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, wherein said material is co-sintered to the ceramic material of the discharge vessel (1) at a manufacturing temperature of the lamp.

7. (currently amended) An electric discharge lamp according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, wherein the first and the second current conductor (2,3) each extend from a sealing compound (6), which seals the discharge vessel (1) around the current conductors (2,3) in a gastight manner, to the exterior

of the discharge vessel (1), and wherein the discharge vessel (1) has projecting plugs (11,12) in each of which a respective current conductor (2,3) is enclosed and which plugs (11,12) each have a free end (111,112) where the discharge vessel (1) is sealed by the sealing compound (6).